

Agenda Date: 8/21/02 Agenda Item: 3C

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities Two Gateway Center Newark, NJ 07102 www.bpu.state.nj.us

CABLE TELEVISION

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION OF CABLEVISION)
OF NEW JERSEY, INC. FOR RENEWAL OF A)
CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL TO CONTINUE TO)
OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A CABLE TELEVISION)
SYSTEM IN THE BOROUGH OF DUMONT, COUNTY)
OF BERGEN, STATE OF NEW JERSEY)

DOCKET NO. CE02060325

Wolff & Samson, Roseland, New Jersey, by Jeffrey B. Ulin, Esq., for the Petitioner.

Borough Clerk, Borough of Dumont, New Jersey, by Jack Eckel, for the Borough.

BY THE BOARD¹:

On December 23, 1976, the Board granted Cablevision of New Jersey, Inc. ("Petitioner") a Certificate of Approval in Docket No. 7611C-6226 for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television system in the Borough of Dumont ("Borough"). On June 1, 1993, the Board granted the Petitioner a Renewal Certificate of Approval in Docket No. CE91101675. Although the Petitioner's Certificate expired on December 23, 2001, it is authorized to continue to provide cable television service to the Borough pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-25.

The Petitioner filed an application for the renewal of its municipal consent with the Borough on March 19, 2001, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-23 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13. The Borough, after public hearing, adopted a municipal ordinance granting renewal consent to the Petitioner on March 19, 2002. On May 1, 2002, the Petitioner formally accepted the terms and conditions of the ordinance, in accordance with N.J.S.A. 48:5A-24.

On June 6, 2002, pursuant to <u>N.J.S.A.</u> 48:5A-16, the Petitioner filed with the Board for a renewal of its Certificate of Approval for the Borough. The Board has reviewed the application for municipal consent, the petition for a Renewal Certificate of Approval and the municipal consent ordinance. Based upon this review and the recommendation of the Office of Cable Television, the Board HEREBY FINDS the following:

¹ Commissioner Carol J. Murphy did not participate in the deliberations or vote on this matter.

- 1. The Petitioner possesses the requisite legal, character, financial and technical qualifications for the awarding of a Renewal Certificate of Approval. Further, the Borough reviewed these qualifications in conjunction with the municipal consent process. See N.J.S.A. 48:5A-22 to 29 and N.J.A.C. 14:18-13.
- 2. The design and technical specifications of the system shall ensure that the Petitioner provides safe, adequate and proper service.
- 3. The Petitioner has represented that all previously required construction within the franchise territory is complete.
- 4. The franchise period as stated in the ordinance is ten years from the date of issuance of this Certificate. The Board finds this period to be of reasonable duration.
- 5. The Petitioner's rates shall be regulated and tariffs shall be filed for all services, in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Federal Communications Commission, the Board and the Office of Cable Television. The Petitioner shall maintain informational tariffs for unregulated service rates and promptly file any revisions thereto.
- 6. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-26(b), the ordinance specifies a complaint officer. In this case, it is the Office of Cable Television. All complaints shall be received and processed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 14:17-6.5.
- 7. The Petitioner shall maintain a local business office or agent for the purpose of receiving, investigating and resolving complaints. The current local office is located at 5 Legion Drive in the Borough of Cresskill.
- 8. The franchise fee to be paid to the Borough is specified to be 2% of the Petitioner's gross revenues from all recurring charges in the nature of subscription fees paid by subscribers for its cable television reception service in the Borough. Additional regulatory fees shall be paid to the State in an amount not to exceed 2% of Petitioner's gross operating revenues derived from intrastate operations. The Board finds these fees to be reasonable.
- 9. The Petitioner shall install cable in all residences in the Borough at tariffed rates for standard and non-standard installation. No line extension policy will be utilized.
- 10. The Petitioner shall provide public, educational and governmental ("PEG") access channels and facilities in accordance with its renewal application and the ordinance. Specifically, the Petitioner shall provide one channel for the Borough to use for PEG access.

- 11. The Petitioner maintains an access studio for use by any resident, individual or group residing in the community for production of non-commercial locally oriented programming. The Petitioner also maintains some portable production equipment available on a first-come, first-served basis for production of non-commercial PEG access programming. The Petitioner provides free training courses for residents who wish to use the studio and/or the PEG access production equipment.
- 12. The Petitioner shall provide a one time capital contribution to the Borough in the amount of \$15,000.00 for cable and/or telecommunications related purposes.
- 13. The Petitioner shall provide the standard installation and monthly basic service, free of charge, to: a) all state or locally accredited primary and secondary public and private schools; b) all public libraries; and c) municipal buildings within the Borough.
- 14. The Petitioner shall provide, free of charge, one high-speed cable modem and monthly Internet access service, including standard installation, to one municipal location in the Borough. In order to request the installation, the Borough must designate the building in writing to the Petitioner. The Borough shall be permitted to network up to three additional personal computer terminals in the designated building.
- 15. The Petitioner shall provide, free of charge, one high-speed cable modem and monthly Internet access service, including standard installation, to all State accredited primary and secondary public and private schools and public libraries in the Borough.

Based upon these findings, the Board HEREBY CONCLUDES, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 48:5A-17(a) and 28(c), that the Petitioner has sufficient financial and technical capacity and meets the legal, character and other qualifications necessary to construct, maintain and operate the necessary installations, lines and equipment and is capable of providing the proposed service in a safe, adequate and proper manner.

Therefore, the Petitioner is HEREBY ISSUED this Renewal Certificate of Approval as evidence of Petitioner's authority to construct and operate a cable television system within the entirety of the Borough.

This Renewal Certificate is subject to all applicable State and federal laws, the rules and regulations of the Office of Cable Television, and any such lawful terms, conditions and limitations as currently exist or may hereafter be attached to the exercise of the privileges granted herein.

The Petitioner shall adhere to the operating standards set forth by the Federal Communications Commission's rules and regulations, 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> Section 76.1 <u>et seq.</u> Any modifications to the provisions thereof shall be incorporated into this Certificate. Additionally and more specifically, the Petitioner shall adhere to the technical standards of 47 <u>C.F.R.</u> Part 76, Subpart K.

Failure to comply with all applicable laws, rules, regulations and orders of the Board or Office of Cable Television and/or the terms, conditions and limitations set forth herein may constitute sufficient grounds for the suspension or revocation of this Certificate.

This Renewal Certificate is issued on the representation that the statements contained in the Petitioner's applications are true, and the undertakings therein contained shall be adhered to and enforceable unless specific waiver is granted by the Office of Cable Television pursuant to the authority contained in N.J.S.A. 48:5A-1 et seq.

This Certificate shall expire ten years from the date of its issuance.

DATED: August 22, 2002 BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BY:

(signed)

JEANNE M. FOX PRESIDENT

(signed)

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

(signed)

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

(signed)

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY